# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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1. Name					
nistoric Iva	anhoe Masonic Temp	le			
and/or common					
2. Location					
street & number 2301 E. Li	inwood Boulevard /	3201 Park A	venue .	not for public	ation
city, town Kansas City	v	icinity of			
state Missouri	<b>code</b> 029	county	Jackson	code	095
3. Classificat	ion				
Category  — district — public —X building(s) — structure — site — object — being con	isition Accessib	cupied in progress	Present Use  agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private re religious scientific transport	ation
4. Owner of P  name Wade Williams, Br  street & number 5500 Ward	ian & Bennett Mos	sman			
city, town Kansas City	Vi	icinity of	State	Missouri 64	113
5. Location of	i Legal Des	criptio	n		
courthouse, registry of deeds, e street & number	tc. Office of Recor (Kansas City An 415 East 12th S	nex)	s, Jackson County	Courthouse	
city, town	Kansas City		state	Missouri	64106
6. Representa	ation in Exi	sting S	urveys		
andmarks Commission Ca itie	se File #0057-D	has this prope	erty been determined el	igible? yes	_X_ no
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city, town Kansas City			state	Missouri 64	106

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On August 12, 1982 the City Council of Kansas City, Missouri adopted Ordinance #54236 which designated the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple an Historic Landmark. The designation lists the property in the Kansas City Register because of its particular "architectural and historic significance."

## 7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated _X good ruins fair unexposed	Check one _x_ unaltered altered	Check one _x_ original site moved date
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, 2301 E. Linwood/3201 Park was designed in a Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture and approximates a height of seven stories. The building occupies a frontage of 135 feet along Linwood Boulevard and 233 feet along Park. The main facade faces north onto Linwood. The grade drops to the south of Linwood, causing the foundation level to be higher.

The building is rectangular in plan. The pedimented windows, use of a colossal portico of engaged Ionic columns on the north facade, and colossal pilasters on the subsidiary facades are indicative of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. The simplicity and monumental quality of this architectural style aptly expressed the architect's desire to convey permanence, solidarity, and dignity, all qualities appropriate to the ideals of the Masonic organization.

#### Exterior

#### Construction Materials and Colors

The building is of reinforced concrete construction; exterior materials are buff brick, Phoenix cut stone (foundation/basement), and terra cotta for ornamental details, and spandrels.

#### North Facade

The facade is divided into seven bays, and features a monumental temple front, created by four 40 foot tall columns (which are in three-quarter relief, and not completely free-standing) which rise from the first through fourth stories, in bays two through six.

The columns feature a deeply incised fluting which createrdamatic shadow lines. The columns frame entrances into the building. The wall plane is recessed back from the columns, and is treated in a different manner from the enframing bays (bays number 1 and 7). Terra cotta facing distinguishes this focal point from the remainder of the building. Directly above the entrance portals, are rectangular double hung windows which contain an unusual rectilinear pattern of mullions.

Directly above the windows are five roundels, fashioned in terra cotta, which display Masonic emblems. The emblems refer to the three Masonic organizations who made their homes here, as well as the emblem of the Master Mason: the square and compass.

A spandrel composed of triglyphs and a pellet molding marks the transition to the next level which contains windows which are decorated with a starburst pattern of grillwork. That pattern is repeated elsewhere on both the exterior and interior ornament.

Directly above the column capitals is a rectangular panel inscribed with the words "Ivanhoe Masonic Temple". The building makes a major transition above this section as a projecting terra cotta cornice defines the attic story. Terra cotta panels line this level to a height equal to the top line of the rectangular window apertures.

The building terminates in an elaborately ornate cresting of terra cotta anthemion.

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#### West Facade

The raised basement/foundation level is faced with smooth stone. A pedimented doorway is located at the north end of this facade. A series of five rectangular windows pierce this level, and are surmounted by smooth stone lintels. The facade above the foundation level is patterned after the main facade, and is divided into seven bays. Bays two through six project forward, and contain squared brick pilasters which frame windows on the "second" and "third" stories. The windows of the "second" story feature triangular pediments. Above this is another series of rectangular windows, which bear a lintel containing a pellet molding.

The terra cotta course which separates the columns from the entablature on the main facade is carried around to this facade as well. Above this projecting course is an additional story. Five square windows pierce the center of this level and are enframed by brick pilasters. This section of the wall extends slightly higher than the adjacent wall sections.

#### East Facade

The east facade mirrors that of the west, but the taller middle section does not contain windows but instead is bricked in. An entrance, which features a flat metal canopy is located at the north end of this facade.

#### South Facade

The south facade is the rear of the building, and as such, does not receive any ornamentation. The wall is essentially blank except for windows which fenestrate the attic story. The terra cotta facing is continued on this facade, immediately above the projecting cornice. A two leafed doorway with an extended height serves as an entranceway from a loading dock facility.

#### Interior

The interior furnishings and finishings of the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple evidence an opulence that is characterized by these features among the many: custom designed grillwork, decorative plasterwork, original mural paintings, specially designed lighting fixtures and plumbing, wood parquetry for the walls and floors, and marble facing for the stairwells and foyer. The Ivanhoe Lodge Building spared nothing in order to create the elegant and opulent surroundings appropriate to the noble aspirations of the Masons.

#### Lobby

The lobby, which is located directly off the Linwood Boulevard entrance to the building, features a coffered ceiling. The stairways, which lead to the mezzanine level of the auditorium, and the walls of the foyer themselves are veneered with Tennessee marble. The balustrade of the stairs was custom designed, and featured a decorative linear treatment. The coffered ceiling was painted in an elaborate multicolored paint scheme, which was carried into the auditorium behind it.<sup>2</sup>

#### Basement/Ground Story (Banquet Hall)

The basement level contains the kitchen facilities for preparing large scale banquets for over six hundred people. The banquet room itself was decorated on a "Mediaeval Italian" treatment with heavy walnut wainscoting. A mezzanine gallery provided space for musicians who would play for the dances held there.

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#### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

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#### Auditorium

The auditorium level, directly above the basement/banquet hall, was the showcase of the Ivanhoe Temple. This area was the only one large enough to accomodate the over fifteen hundred members of the lodge. Its ornamentation as evidenced by the plasterwork ceilings, decorative moldings, and multicolored paint schemes, paralleled the restrained ornament of the exterior. The auditorium itself, measuring some 88 x 128 feet, was organized with mezzanine and balcony levels.

The coffered ceilings provided better acoustical potential and continued the interior decoration of the foyer. The starburst pattern of the exterior window grills is repeated in the coffers. A frieze of triglyphs and metopes, which contain golden spheres, surrounds the auditorium in a band on each level. The color scheme implemented for the auditorium reflects a carefully chosen palette that was repeated elsewhere on the building. The choice of colors is characteristic of the careful considerations that were given to every aspect of the temple's ornament. Burris Jenkins, mason and author of the commemorative volume on the Ivanhoe Temple explained the choice of color schemes in this passage:

> ... The newest knowledge of the Greek methods of interior decoration have here been introduced. It was long supposed that the Greeks left their buildings free of paint, severely white in the original marbles. It has only lately been discovered by the researches of archaeologists that quite the contrary is true, and that they carried out the most gorgeous color schemes, and overlaid the stone with variegated pigments. So does the big hall of Ivanhoe Temple glow with an oriental richness of color in keeping with its style as well as with its purpose. The effect upon the eye is not only pleasing, but moving and inspiring.4

#### Fourth Story

This level, located directly above the auditorium, contained the library, smoking room, two lodge rooms, and numerous other smaller lounges and committee rooms. While it was the fourth floor of the building, because of the auditorium's height it actually approximated the seventh story of the building, and elevators were provided for access.

#### Library

The library featured walnut paneling from floor to ceiling, built-in bookcases, and an ornate plasterwork ceiling. Its design was characterized as "...the Elizabethan style of carved walnut with Italian ideas running through." The chandeliers were selected for their ability to carry forward the overall scheme for this room.

#### Sanctum Sanctorum

Perhaps the most extraordinary room in the Temple was one dubbed the Sanctum Sanctorum. The ornamentation displayed here reflected the High Gothic tradition, particularly because of its fan vaulted tracery. A windowless room, it was here that the most solemn of ceremonies were conducted. Burris Jenkins described it as "...the heart of hearts, the center of centers, the soul of souls, the very Holy of Holies of the order."5

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The architecture of the room illustrates the elaborate fan vaults of the English Perpendicular style.<sup>6</sup> The myriad ribs in the arch of the vault terminate in a highly decorative pendant. Panels throughout the room reflect the intricate linear patterns of the ceiling. Perpendicular tracery, composed of intersecting cusps, are framed by Gothic arches. Murals which depicted Solomon's Temple, the three steps into Masonry, and other scenes which portrayed important themes of the Masonic order were painted within panels framed by arches located throughout the room. They were a key element in conveying the didactic quality of the room. Elsewhere, oak panels were carved in relief with such symbols as shields, open Bibles, gavels, squares and compasses, and a Templar's sword.<sup>7</sup>

#### Roof Garden

The roof measuring 90 x 125 feet was covered with glazed tile and featured a pergola. Meals were served and concerts given during the summer months. 8 Today nothing remains of the pergola.

#### Smith, Rea & Lovitt - The Architects

The architectural firm of Smith, Rea & Lovitt was formed in 1910, and was composed of Charles A. Smith, Frank S. Rea, and Walter U. Lovitt, Jr. The senior member of the firm, Charles Smith, came to Kansas City in 1887 and became a partner of William F. Hackney, who was at the time, School Board Architect. Following Hackney's death in 1898, Smith acquired the school board position and remained in the post until retirement in 1936.9

In 1901 Frank S. Rea joined the firm, followed by Walter Lovitt in 1910. The firm designed notable examples of commercial, residential, institutional and ecclesiastical buildings. Among them are the Jenkins Music Company Building, 1217 Walnut (a National Register property); Firestone Building, 2001 Grand; Ararat Shrine Building, 300 West 10th Street (a National Register property); and the Kansas City Club, 1228 Baltimore.

The firm was dissolved in 1920, when Walter Lovitt died. 10 Rea died the following year. 11 Smith practiced independently thereafter and died in 1948. 12 Neither Lovitt, the principal designer, nor Rea lived to witness Ivanhoe's dedication.

#### Present Condition/Status

The building is currently vacant, and is in good to excellent condition. The original fixtures, stone veneers, paneling, original mural paintings, color schemes, and decorative plasterwork are intact. The original seats, and asbestos stage curtain remain in the auditorium.

#### Alterations

The building has not been altered.

#### Site

Ivanhoe Temple is located at the southeast corner of East Linwood Boulevard and Park Avenue. A church building is north, across Linwood Boulevard. Residences are to the south. Immediately to the east is a residence that has been converted into a funeral home. A small park is to the west.

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#### FOOTNOTES

- Burris Jenkins, <u>The Miracle of Ivanhoe</u> (Kansas City: Ivanhoe Temple Company, 1924), p. 41.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Ibid, p. 43.
- 4. Ibid.
- 5. Ibid, p. 49.
- 6. John Fleming, Hugh Honour, and Nikolaus Pevsner, A Dictionary of Architecture, 1966 ed. s.v. "English Architecture."
- 7. Jenkins, p. 47.
- 8. "The \$700,000 Ivanhoe Lodge Home Ready in September," Kansas City Times, 7 June 1922, p. 3.
- 9. "Charles A. Smith Dies," Kansas City Times, 12 January 1948.
- 10. "Walter U. Lovitt Dead," Kansas City Star, 9 March 1920, p. 3.
- 11. "Death Notices," Kansas City Star, 19 February 1921, p. 6.
- 12. "Charles A. Smith Dies."

### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1799 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications		Iandscape architectur Iaw Iiterature Imilitary Implication Indication Indicat	e religion science sculpture x social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1920-1922	Builder/Architect Smit	h, Rea & Lovitt	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, 2301 E. Linwood Boulevard/3201 Park constructed between 1920 and 1922, vividly portrays the distinctive type of architecture that was developed around the institution of Masonry. Its scale of ornament (both interior and exterior) reflect the special concerns of an organization which placed great emphasis on ceremony and its attendant symbolism. The Ivanhoe Lodge was first established in 1901. After a relatively short period of phenomenal growth, the lodge embarked on an ambitious building campaign with a goal of constructing a facility that would be unequalled. The campaign to raise some three quarters of a million dollars was an effort made all the more difficult because it coincided with the period of turbulence created by the First World War. The result of that extraordinarily successful campaign was the construction of a building which was the largest of its kind in the entire United States at the time. This Neo-Classical Revival styled building was a showcase for the Masons, and contained an impressive 1,800 seat auditorium, a 600 person capacity banquet facility, elegantly furnished lodge and lounging rooms, and a Sanctum Sanctorem that was richly appointed and featured an elaborate fan vaulted ceiling. The Temple was the hub of activity for a number of years not only for the Masons, but for the general public as well. The Ivanhoe Temple became home to the Kansas City Chamber Musîc Society, and its concerts were a major cultural activity for the City. Those concerts featured major vocalists from such . renowned organizations as the Metropolitan and Chicago Opera Companies, and such impressive instrumentalists as violinist Mischa Elman, and pianist/composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. Today, the building continues to convey a major institutional presence along Linwood Boulevard.

#### History of the Ivanhoe Lodge

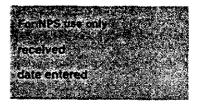
The Masons, or Freemasons represent one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the United States today. In fact, this fraternal body even existed in the colonies, having been imported from Europe prior to the American Revolution. In Missouri the organization had its beginnings in St. Louis in 1821, and spread rapidly throughout the State as new territories were explored and settled. This feverish pace saw the spinoff of a number of allied organizations both locally and nationally which included: the York and Scottish Rites; Shrine; Order of the Eastern Star; Order of DeMolay; and Bethels of Job's Daughters. 2

Freemasonry, which combined civic and social activities with elaborate cermonies and rituals, caused an architecture to be created that would serve its very specialized needs. As a result, virtually every Masonic lodge and/or temple built exclusively for the Masons included an auditorium/theater; banquet hall; lodge rooms; and a ball room.

The enormous Ivanhoe Masonic Temple at Linwood and Park Avenues was constructed between 1920 and 1922. Before its construction, the major Masonic facility in Kansas City was located at 903 Harrison, in the City's Central Business District.

Prior to the construction of that facility various groups of Masons had occupied another building in the Downtown. When a fire in 1909 destroyed that facility, a consortium of Masonic groups determined to build a new and exceptional structure that would truly reflect the import of the organization that was to occupy it.<sup>3</sup>

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The Masonic Temple at 9th and Harrison was constructed between 1909 and 1911, and designed utilizing a fairly restrained Classical-Revival style. The building featured a profusion of skillfully designed opalescent art glass windows illustrating various symbols that were important to the Masonic order.4

Masonic buildings have characteristically contained various oblique, and other obvious references to the mystical nature of the Fraternity. The depiction of these various symbols was made an important concern of the architect and those artists who designed the interior tableaux for the masonic buildings.

In 1909 when this major temple in the Downtown area was first under construction, the Ivanhoe lodge had just purchased their first building dedicated to the exclusive use of that Chapter. 5 The Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge had its modest beginnings in 1900, when three determined Masons: George McLanahan, Burr F. Augustine, and Dr. Grant Johnson, met in an upstairs room of Johnson's drugstore at 38th Street and Woodland Avenues in order to discuss the possibilities of establishing a lodge in that part of the City.6 At that time 38th and Woodland was still outside the City limits. The three predicted (and were subsequently proved emphatically correct), that the City would expand southward at an extraordinary pace. They reasoned that because of its anticipated growth that the establishment of a new lodge would be more than necessary if the Order were to grow. These three determined men petitioned the Grand Lodge of Missouri for an official Chapter. In September of 1901 the Ivanhoe Lodge, Number 446, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was created. 7 From that initial sanction by the parent organization the Lodge began its phenomenal growth. Freemasonry has a hierarchical organization, and thus when new chapters formed, coordination between the various preexistant bodies had to be established. In order for the Ivanhoe lodge to grow, the realignment of several of those other groups had to occur. In 1913 an organizational realignment was effected which would set the stage for what was to follow.

The Kansas City Chapter, No. 28, Royal Arch Masons, and Kansas City Commandery, No. 10, Knights Templar, were combined into the Ivanhoe Lodge. By October of 1916, when plans were first announced to construct the Temple, the membership of the Lodge had swelled to seventeen hundred. 8 With these combined fiscal and membership assets, it was now possible to consider the construction of a facility that would become a showcase rivaling any heretofore constructed, and equal to the noble sentiments expressed by Freemasonry. The first major step in this ambitious project was the formation of the Ivanhoe Building Company, with McLanahan as its President. Plans for an enormous building included an auditorium which could seat as many as fifteen hundred, lodge rooms, lounging spaces, and a roof garden. 10 The grand dimensions of this proposal was to find its perfect expression in the architecture of the exterior, as nothing less than a massive temple front could convey the symbolic import of Masonry as well. The architecture of the building was, not surprisingly, the design of a man who himself was a Mason. Walter Lovitt, principal in the firm of Smith, Rea, & Lovitt, can be credited with Ivanhoe's design. 11 Ground was broken for the Ivanhoe Lodge on January 1, 1920. McLanahan dug the first shovel full of earth using a golden spade. Since its founding twenty years prior to that New Year's day, McLanahan had witnessed the growth of the organization from its thirty members the first year to the largest Masonic organization west of the Mississippi River. 12 The temple was dedicated in a private ceremony conducted on November 16, 1922.13 The building, which had taken some three quarters of a million dollars to construct and furnish was now ready to host the full spectrum of Masonic activities.

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As a fraternal organization the Masons enjoyed frequent social functions. The banquet hall and roof garden accomodated those grand social gatherings. Other functions which took place in the Temple were held for some charitable cause, as charity was a basic tenet of the organization.

The fabulous auditorium within the Temple allowed the Ivanhoe lodge the opportunity to host major symphonic concerts. In fact, the lodge took over the entire management of the Kansas City Orchestra which had previously experienced severe patronage and financial difficulties.  $^{14}$ 

In addition to the symphony the lodge sponsored its own concert series, which included symphonies, vocalists, and complete operatic productions. The concerts held at the Ivanhoe Temple became a major cultural component of the city.

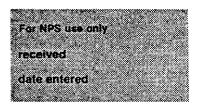
In more recent years the Ivanhoe's stage has been used for musical productions, student recitals, and church services. The Ivanhoe Masonic Temple dominates this intersection of Linwood Boulevard & Park Avenue, and represents a remarkable monument to the architect's skill, and the importance of the Masonic organization.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, therefore is being nominated to the National Register as an example of the themes of "architecture" and "society."

#### FOOTNOTES

- "Freemasonry's First 150 Years in Missouri," <u>Kansas City Star</u>, 26 September 1971, Star Magazine Section, p.25.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. "Kansas City Masonic Temple," National Register nomination. Landmarks Commission Office, 414 East 12th Street, Item 8, p. 1.
- 4. Ibid, Item 7.
- 5. "The Little Lodge in Ivanhoe Park that has Become the Second Largest in Masonry," Kansas City Star, 19 July 1925, Section C, p. 3.
- 6. Ibid.
- 7. Ibid, p. 4.
- 8. "Plan a Big Masonic Temple," Kansas City Star, 8 October 1916, Section A, p. 12.
- 9. Ibid.

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- 10. "Ivanhoe Temple Clipping File," Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City, Missouri, Public Library.
- 11. "The Little Lodge in Ivanhoe Park," p. 5.
- 12. "Ivanhoe Temple Dedicated," Kansas City Times, 16 November 1922, p. 6.
- 13. Ibid.
- 14. "The Little Lodge in Ivanhoe Park," p. 6.

9. major bib	ilographica	i Retero	ences		
"Breaking Ground for vard." <u>Kansas City Ti</u>			Cemple, Park Ave	nue and Linwood	Boule-
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10. Geograp	hical Data				
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Quadrangle name <u>Kansas</u> UTM References	City, Missouri		Quadran	gie scale <u>1:24,00</u>	0
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street & number 414 East	12th Street, 26th	Floor	telephone (816)	274-2555	
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The evaluated significance of	• • •				
national	state	X local			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
As the designated State Histo 665), I hereby nominate this paccording to the criteria and	property for inclusion in th	e National Regis	ster and certify that it		w 89
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Director & Deputy	State Historic Pres	eservatión ( ervation	fficer date	3/21/85	
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i nereby certify that this	s property/is included in th	e National Regis			
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Attest:			date	*	
Chief of Registration					

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"Concert a Great Event." Kansas City Times, 30 September 1922, p. 2.

Fleming, John; Honour, Hugh; and Pevsner, Nikolaus. A Dictionary of Architecture. Woodstock, New York: The Overlook Press, 1976.

"Freemasonry's First 150 Years in Missouri." Kansas City Star, 26 September 1971, Star Magazine Section, pp. 24-27.

"Ivanhoe Concert Series," 1922 Season, n.p., n.d., Vertical File, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City, Missouri, Public Library.

Jenkins, Burris. The Miracle of Ivanhoe. Kansas City: Ivanhoe Temple Company, 1924.

"The Little Lodge in Ivanhoe Park that has Become the Second Largest in Masonry." Kansas City Star, 19 July 1925, Section C, p. 3.

Ordinance #54236 "Designating the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, 2301 East Linwood Boulevard as an Historic Landmark," dated 12 August 82. Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

"Plan a Big Masonic Temple." Kansas City Star, 8 October 1916, Section A, p. 12.

The \$700,000 Ivanhoe Lodge Home Ready in September." Kansas City Times, 7 June 1922, p. 3.

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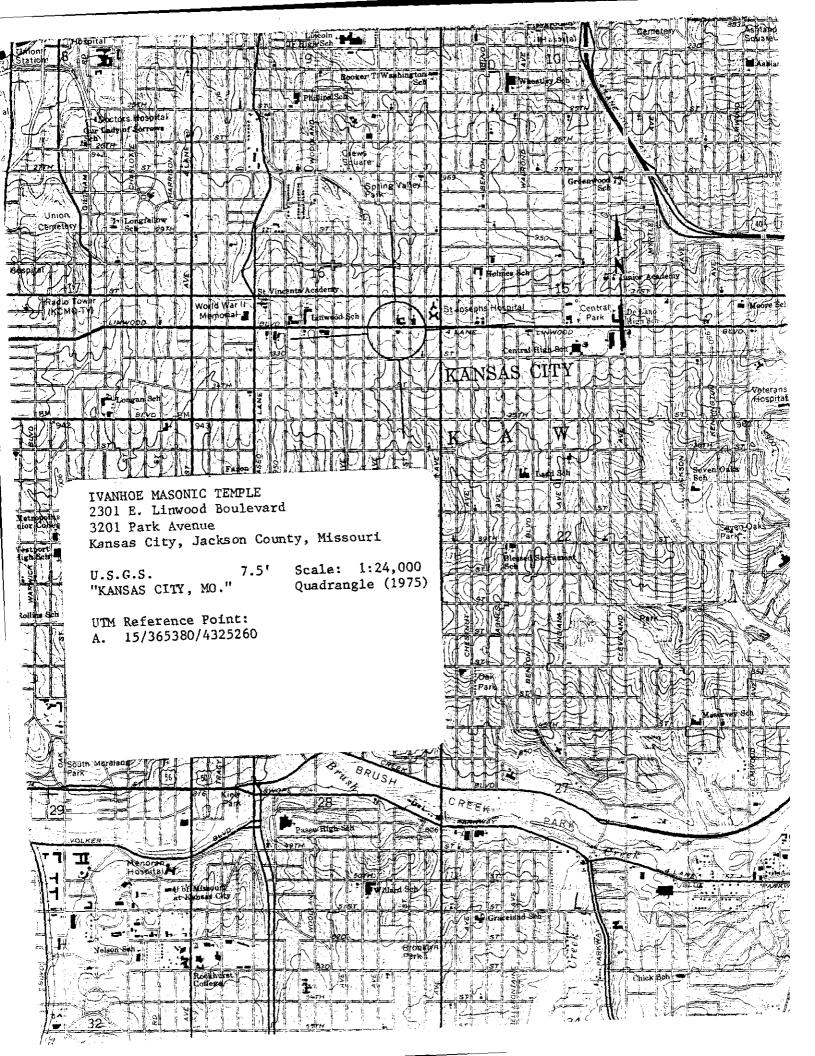
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feet to a point 134.4 feet West of the West right-of-way line of Olive Street, as now established; thence Southerly along a line that is equi-distant from said West right-of-way line and the East right-of-way line of Park Avenue, as now established, 231-2/3 feet to the northeast corner of a tract of land conveyed by Warranty Deed recorded under Document No. B-221165 in Book B-5047 at page 196; thence West along the North line of said tract of land 134.4 feet to the Northwest corner thereof, being a point on the East right-of-way line of said Park Avenue; thence North along said East right-of-way line 231-2/3 feet to the point of beginning.



Ivanhoe Temple 1 of 6 Kansas City, Missouri

Photographer: Sherry Piland April, 1982

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall, 26th Floor 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, MO 64106

North (main) facade on left; west facade on right. View looking southeast.



Ivanhoe Temple 2 of Kansas City, Missouri

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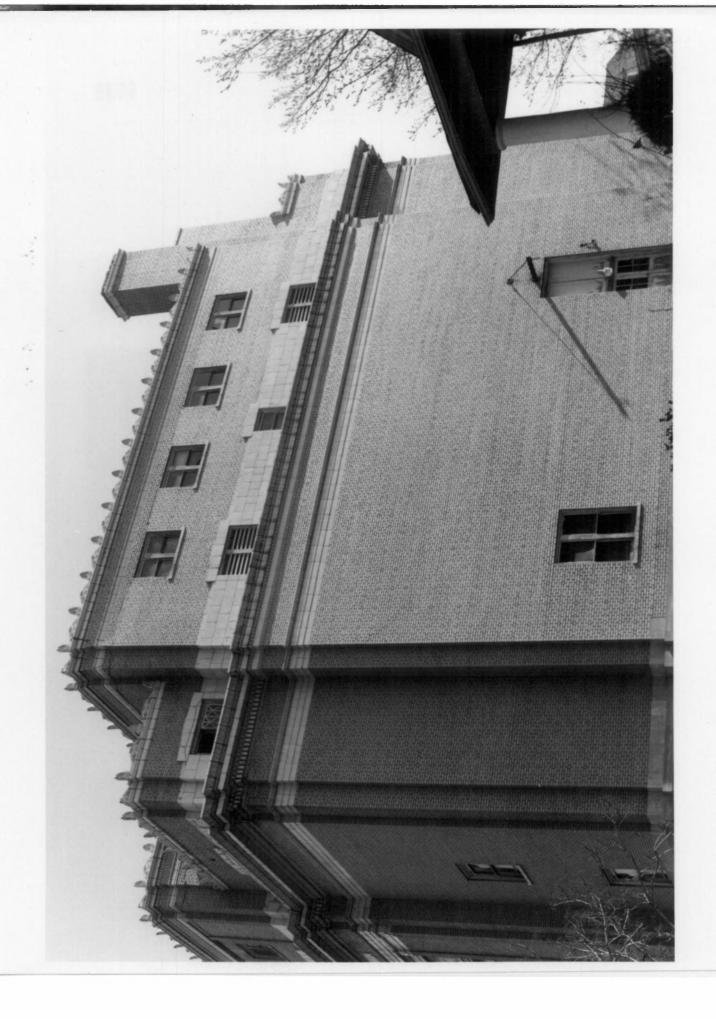
Photographer: Sherry Piland April, 1982

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall, 26th Floor 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, MO 64106 East facade on left; north (main) facade on right. View looking southwest.



Ivanhoe Temple 3 of 6
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Sherry Piland
April, 1982

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall, 26th Floor 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, MO 64106 South (rear) facade. View looking northeast.

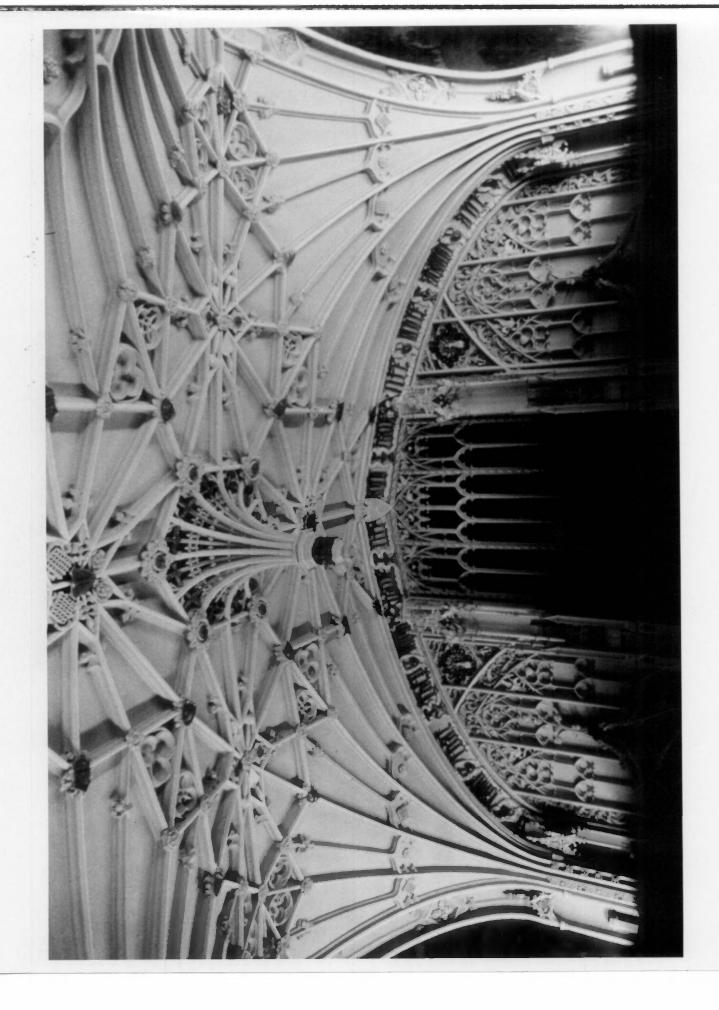


4 of 6 Kansas City, Missouri Ivanhoe Temple .

Photographer:

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall, 26th Floor 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106 Mark Moseman June, 1982

detail of Sanctum Sanctonum ceiling



5 of 6 Kansas City, Missouri Ivanhoe Temple

Sherry Piland June, 1982 Photographer:

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall, 26th Floor 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106

detail of Auditorium, looking toward stage



Ivanhoe Temple
Kansas City, Missouri
Photographer: Sherry Piland
June, 1982

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall, 26th Floor 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106

detail of entrance lobby

